

MONTE CRISPEN A TALE OF PHILADELPHIA

WRITTEN ESPECIALLY FOR THE EVENING LEDGER BY ARNOLD GARRY COLM

CHAPTER XIV—Continued

"B LACK art!" ejaculated Agent W. "I'm simply fabbergasted," voiced Andrews.

"Bah! Nothing marvelous," spoke up Binns, the code expert, in his thin, piping voice. "Those newcomer characters were written in sympathetic ink. The heat of the fireplace brought them into view. Lucky thing we got the whole message before we started to decipher it. Writing done in chlorides of cobalt and nickel develop color on heating, and fade as the paper cools. Take this writing out of doors and the new characters will disappear."

"However was it done?" asked Monte. "Although the characters, both new and old in the cross, are distorted as to shape, they were made upon an ordinary typewriter," shrilled Binns. "Of this I am certain. You have all heard of a two-color ribbon in an ordinary typewriter. Now suppose half of such a ribbon was soaked in an equal part solution of copper and sal-ammoniac. All that the operator had to do was to turn the knob of the ribbon position indicator to the invisible ink section of the indicator stand, at the end of each line, and thus produce one visible and one invisible line until he had completed the cross."

"That these characters look more like fly tracks than letters," insisted Monte. "Be patient! I can explain all that," croaked the code reader. "If you gentlemen will please come closer, and I am given a small looking glass we will get somewhere."

Monte left the room and he returned almost immediately with a hand mirror purloined from his dresser. He gave it to Binns.

CHAPTER XV Kings and Their Pawns

BINNS rapidly took down the reversed characters upon a separate sheet of white paper exactly, and in the order they appeared to one facing the reflecting surface of the hand-mirror. In brief, the original gray sheet of paper represented the locked form in the stereotyping room of a newspaper office; the white sheet of paper impersonated the yet matrix, and the rapid penmanship of Binns was the transforming power that produced the reverse impression of the cryptogram, all the characters placed in their proper position. He preserved the identical outline of a cross, and the result was this:

1 3 A Q S D Q E F M F
DM 4 T P I E U X U
WH 2 U 6 Z Q A I Q
EK 6 S 8 M J Z T E
I P 6 T 3 H B E A F
Q K 8 Q 5 K Q B E A
D Q T F O E Z 7 D B D D Q N R F Z Q Q
Q D Q D U F M 7 I 7 D U A Q G U G Q D E
B F X G D A Y U F M E A Q S W K Q M D G I
D U P E A U U Q S T S Z D E F E X G Z O
A Q U F Z X F J Q U S D O Q F T M A Z O X
B E Z Y I X Q F E B M Q E A Q O I P X X
A T X A M 3 D U Y O
G M Q D D 5 O Z B T
N D Y F P 7 M S M Q
X S U Q A 7 B O U M
Y Q X D B T M A D B
Y E X T B Q O Y H I
U I E A A U B M T
Z U E G E D F M X Q
Q D F D U Z K X G Z
P Q D E F A Z K Q Y
Q X U M U N Q A B O
J Q W D A G S R D C
F E Q D Z E A R A G
D E E M F U F U B M
M 3 R Z A Z U O Q X
T 3 A S Z Q M U D U

"The use of reversed type to produce so palpable a delusion seems a sad waste of effort," piped the owl-headed code expert, adding as he jotted down the last row of characters: "Some other reason for it, I guess. Thank goodness! I have it copied. Save the original, for if there is anything further hidden in the gray spaces we can coax it out with one of our many magic chemical washes. Always best to test out the entire surface of suspected documents."

"Suppose," interrupted Monte Crispin to the spellbound circle in his study, "the typewriter machine that wrote this cross was specially built to serve as the regular instrument of communication out from an invisible personality; for instance, from a daring king of crime, one never seen by his pawns, whose orders issue forth only on scraps of paper—"

"Good reasoning youngster; fill in the whole picture," encouraged Agent W., who liked nothing so much as a fresh point of view.

Hochmeister—Sigway ruled his subjects from a throne built upon mystery and cash for services rendered. "There is no system of cipher which cannot be read with a little skill and patience, latent analytic ability called into action," shrilled the code expert, focusing attention again upon the cryptic cross. "It is concentrated mental fishing for loose ends. First off, let us take stock of the 23 rows of characters before us which hold fast the message we are after. Count them!—there are exactly 350 characters, of which 350 have the form of letters and 20 appear as numbers. Let us assume that each letter character represents a real letter. As for the numbers, their vertical position in the cross indicates that the whole cryptogram is written longitudinally, either top to bottom or bottom to top."

He set the numbers down horizontally, and asked his auditors if they suggested anything in their new position. There were two rows: Upwards—7563 * * * 775386 * * * 778624323. Downwards—3334269577 * * * 682577 * * * 5577.

"Try hard and see if one or two or more numbers put together gives any hint to you gentlemen," said Binns. "Through these numbers I aim to get the direction of the word travel in the cross." "The repetition of 77, a combination of two numbers in three different places, might mean that 77 stands for a unit of some sort," ventured Monte. "That applies with equal force to the combination 53 in the upper row and 35 in the lower row, which each appear in two places," assented Craig Andrews, the lawyer. "I would say that the figures might safely be considered in couples. But which way, upwards or downwards?"

Agent W. had been nervously fingering through the pages of a tiny morocco-bound pocket memorandum book. He started violently, and holding the thumb of his right hand as a marker on a closely written page in the book, voiced a disconcerting cry in three different keys: "Oh! Oh! Oh!" "Speak!" exclaimed Andrews. "Don't keep us in suspense."

"Why not say that the particular unit each couple of numbers represents is a flesh and blood person?" said the secret service man. He ignored the upper row of numbers, but quickly rewrote the lower row, punctuating it as follows: Downwards, 33, 34, 26, 68, 77 * * * 68, 35, 77 * * * 35, 77.

Agent W. went on: "Recall that night we pounced upon poor Lumley in the Exchange Building? He surprised us by saying he had expected us; said, 'How do I know? Well, less than an hour ago yonder telephone rang. It was a man's voice. He gave his number 68. They all have numbers.' See, I have his very words down in my book. Now look at the cross again and read the figures downward; 68 appears twice. As 68 is one man, then it is quite safe to say 33, 34, 26, 77 and 35 are also individual members of the Sigway gang. Six sub-subordinates. Eureka!"

Exclamations of astonishment escaped both Andrews and Monte. The young multimillionaire said: "Cheap at \$5000; dirt cheap." "Binns, who made it his business to solve penmanship puzzles and readagrams, was not interested at all in the pursuit of criminals. He showed his annoyance by letting off several short, wheezy whistles. He muttered something about putting the art before the horse. His job was to drop the baffling tumbler of the whole cryptogram and break down the entire combination in the cross.

"Time enough later for the scent-finders," he piped. "At present the importance of 68 rather than 55 is that once we have found the key letter and transformed the 350 character letters into plain letters, we now know that they are to be read downward instead of upward."

"What!" said Andrews. "Do you hope to find the key to this cipher tonight?" "Certainly! Give me a few moments, gentlemen, until I take stock of these letter characters," said the decoder. "Very simple! Very simple!"

days when chuckles have the official sanction of the White House—and then he pounded his bulging forehead with his open palm. His countenance brightened and he cried: "I have got it!"

CHAPTER XVI The Cryptic Cross Solved

"FIRE ahead, wizard; we are ready for the message of the cryptic cross," ejaculated Andrews, the lawyer. Monte and Agent W. were held burning with interest from the fever of expectancy, now that complexity had been reduced to a shadow.

Cryptography, the tangled tongue of intrigue, flourishes best in love and war. Its range is wide, for the systems used are endless in their variety; the string-cipher, the wheel-cipher and the circle-cipher are among the diversities. Separated sweethearts generally use the double-book cipher, although the marking of playing cards after an agreed-upon sequence in the pack has a present popularity among lovers who play bridge whist. Then there are the code books of navies, diplomats and business houses, where single words do the work of entire sentences.

The art of communication in such a way as to be incomprehensible except to those who possess the key to the system employed has been in practice from the earliest times; the Egyptians, the Hebrews, the Spartans and Julius Caesar and the Romans all sought to conceal their vital military and diplomatic messages in cryptography. Fortified by a life study of the cobweb lore of centuries, Binns stood triumphant over the cryptic cross of the master-mind of the Sigway gang. It was his big moment. No wonder he puffed up with the arrogance of a pouter pigeon as he elucidated, after the manner of a paid lecturer, in this fashion: "The maker of this cryptic cross on the table chose the commonest of all ciphers; the selection in the place of the proper letters certain other letters. There is no significance whatever in the design itself, simply typewriter art for art's sake. To get at all of the real letters it was only necessary for me to establish the true letter of one of the symbols. Edgar Allen Poe, in his famous short story, 'The Gold Bug,' made his solution of a similar cryptogram seem difficult, when it was anything but laborious. My method was to work out one character letter, and apply succeeding character letters to corresponding letters of the alphabet. To begin, I counted the different times certain letter characters reappear. Not all of them, but those having the greatest frequency in the cross.

Binns showed this table: Q appears 41 times U appears 29 times E appears 25 times A appears 23 times M appears 20 times X appears 15 times

(CONTINUED TOMORROW.)

FARMER SMITH'S RAINBOW CLUB

DO BIRDS EAT PRETZELS?

Dearest Children—It would be a wonderful thing to find a children's editor who knew everything. I frankly confessed that I knew very little about birds, but that I was willing to learn, and I want you to write and tell what YOU know about birds. I have been learning fast.

I decided that I would put some bread outside my window for Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Sparrow, who are building a bungalow on the roof opposite my room. As I went home one night I remembered that I had not taken a loaf of bread, so I stopped at a fruit stand and bought a tiny pretzel. This I deposited daintily upon the roof outside my window. It stayed there for a few days and the birds did not eat it. It worried me greatly to think that Mr. and Mrs. Sparrow did not like the food I had provided for them, but I thought perhaps they were busy washing the windows of their home or using the vacuum cleaner to dust the tiny straws which go to make up the homes of birds.

One day it rained and it was after that rain that the pretzel disappeared. I had begun to think that there must be something to the story about catching birds if you put salt on their tails and that the little friends were afraid of the salt on the pretzel, but now I know that the sparrows were too busy to eat the pretzel when it was hard and they, knowingly, waited for the rain to soften it for them.

I sometimes wonder why it is we poor mortals do not use our heads and our brains the way the birds and animals and fishes do. Of course, I do not know, but I have never seen Mrs. Sparrow sitting down and worrying where the grass and twigs are coming from to finish the bungalow, but I have seen human beings worrying about things far less important to them than the building of her home is to the mother bird.

Tell us more about the birds and we shall have a beautiful time. FARMER SMITH, Children's Editor, EVENING LEDGER.

THE CHEERFUL CHIEF. I'm very painfully in love. I almost die at each rebuff. I think perhaps she'll marry me if I can fool her long enough.

CHILDREN WHO LEAVE TO PICK CRANBERRIES PUZZLE SCHOOL HEADS

Thousands Who Go Over Into New Jersey in Spring Lose Months of Training Period.

PARENTS TO BE QUIZZED

Three thousand Philadelphia school children who desert the classrooms to pick cranberries in the bogs of Jersey or work on farms in the spring school months constitute a problem that is puzzling the Board of Education and the State Department of New Jersey.

There will be a special investigation to determine what can be done, it was said today by Henry J. Gideon, chief of the Bureau of Compulsory Education, who confessed that he was puzzled. "At a conference between Philadelphia officials and Commissioners of Education Kendall, of New Jersey, it was decided to investigate the matter thoroughly on this side of the river," said Chief Gideon. "The children's parents will be questioned in every school district and means to prevent the emigration will be sought."

The vanguard of the army of children who leave the schools every spring went to New Jersey today to take up their residence in that State until late in the fall. Most of them miss five months of schooling, leaving them at the end of several years with but a fragmentary education.

"Although they are registered as students, they get virtually no education," Chief Gideon declared. "In some cases entire classes are broken up."

"That New Jersey cannot educate the child immigrant was the positive statement made in an opinion by Attorney General Wescott, of New Jersey, who pointed out that the children's homes are in this State and that their presence in New Jersey is only for temporary employment. Besides, the rural schools are closed during the period of the children's presence in New Jersey, he added."

Burglars Get \$300 Loot

Thieves forced an entrance into the home of Samuel M. D. Clapper, of 127 West Nixon street, Germantown, last night and stole \$300 worth of jewelry and silverware. The burglary was committed while Mr. Clapper and his wife were visiting friends. Mr. Clapper is a woolen merchant at 3d and Chestnut streets.

DOUBLE WEDDING ON WAGER

Brother of One Flance Wins Bet He Wouldn't Marry

A double wedding, the result of a wager, was performed at the Tabernacle Lutheran Church, 59th and Spruce streets, and the four, Mr. and Mrs. James H. Morrow and Mr. and Mrs. George J. Eppleman, are on their honeymoon today. Mrs. Morrow was Emma Mae Eppleman, of Woodcrest, N. J. Mrs. Eppleman was Lucy V. Moulder, of 622 Spruce street. After Miss Eppleman announced her engagement to Mr. Morrow, of Oak Lane, Mr. Morrow bet a good-sized sum that his fiancée's brother, who was already engaged to Miss Moulder, would not take part in a double wedding. Eppleman accepted, and the wager was paid after the ceremony on Saturday. The bridal pairs will return after May 1 to a twin apartment at 239 South Hirst street.

TEA

60c GOLD SEAL 45c lb. 1/2-lb. pkg. 23c—3/4-lb. pkg. 12c. A blend of the highest grade Teas, of fine, delicate flavor and your favorite kind. Black, Mixed or Assam.

COFFEE

35c R. & C. BEST Coffee 30c lb. A blend of the finest Coffee grown, famous for its smooth, mellow, satisfying flavor. At its regular price, 35c the pound, is unusual value.

GOLD SEAL VIENNA BREAD

Unequaled in quality and size at this nominal price. TASTY RAISIN BREAD. Large loaves of fine quality, with a plentiful supply of big, juicy California raisins.

IN BENEFIT FOR SANATORIUM



Leading Members of Theatrical Companies Will Appear at Forrest Friday

Leading artists appearing at the different theatres in the city this week will furnish entertainment at a benefit performance which will be given at the Forrest Theatre Friday afternoon in aid of the Eagleville Sanatorium for Consumption.

The performance will take the form of a monster variety show, each artist contributing a bright, snappy unit to the entertainment. The entire receipts will be given to the Eagleville Sanatorium for Consumption.

A lively number will be the entire first act of the farce, 'It Pays to Advertise,' now being presented at the Garrick Theatre. Daisie Irving, Alice Hegeman, Fritz Williams, Muriel Hudson, Richard Hall, Lillian Baker and other leading members of the 'Come to Bohemia' company at the Forrest will present the principal numbers of that show.

The stars, and a contingent of chorus girls from the New York Winter Garden musical extravaganza, 'A World of Pleasure,' which opens tonight at the Lyric Theatre, will present some of their hits. Lawrence Grammett, Zoo Barnett, Charles Jude, Quentin Tod and Helen Clarke, now playing in 'Nobody Home' at the Adelphi, will present some of the song hits of that attraction. Eddie Leonard and 'Tango Shoes' will be among the acts furnished from the bill of B. F. Keith's Theatre.

Early Risers Fish Illegally

Authorities are hunting for two men alleged to have been fishing illegally in Chester River at Upland. The men get out early in the morning and use a dragnet, which reaches from bank to bank.

RARE PAINTINGS SHOW EARLY HISTORY OF U. S.

Exhibit Placed in Congress Hall Today Will Be on View Until June 20

Illustrations on pictorial page. Fifty canvases depicting in sequential order the history of the British Colonies of North America, and their successor, the United States, were placed on free exhibition today in Congress Hall, 6th and Chestnut streets, to remain until June 20. They represent more than 20 years work by J. La G. Ferris, a Philadelphia artist, of 2 North 50th street, who began this unique and interesting task in the early 30s.

The canvases illustrate Elsworth's Wedding Journey and Minnehaha after incidents in Longfellow's poem, Hendrick Hudson, the Abduction of Pocahontas, the First Thanksgiving in Plymouth, the Fall of New Amsterdam when Stuyvesant capitulated to the English commander, Colonel Richard Nicolls, the landing of Penn, the building of Independence Hall with a portrait of Andrew Hamilton, its architect; Franklin's Bookshop, several incidents of the Revolutionary War and many incidents hitherto unrecorded in the life of George Washington before, during and after the time he was President of the United States.

The final series tells tentatively and realistically the story of Abraham Lincoln, from his experiences as a rail splitter to one of his last official acts in pardoning the rebel who had taken the oath of allegiance to the United States.

The artist, who is a pupil of Jerome, the French master, has gone to infinite trouble and expense in procuring an accurate detail of costume and accessories, even to making models of carriages and vehicles used between 1670 and 1825, some of which he constructed with his own hands.

The collection was placed on exhibition under the auspices of the city of Philadelphia.

STATE OPENS LABOR BUREAU FOR WOMEN; JOBS PLENTIFUL

Signs in Clubs and Lunch Rooms Offer Positions

Signs offering to help unemployed girls in clubs, settlement houses, lunch rooms and other centres as part of the plan of the State Department of Labor and Industry for a free employment bureau for women. The bureau has a separate department which is in touch with employers throughout the city and will give special attention to those who apply according to the announcement on the posters. It offers to find positions for girls in mills and factories and as cooks, companions, dressmakers and waitresses.

Fire in Old School

For nearly 50 years a landmark in West Philadelphia, the Belmont Grammar School, at 41st and Broad streets, was damaged by fire early yesterday, causing a loss of thousands of dollars. The entire upper floor was destroyed. This will place nearly 100 pupils on halftime today.

The cause of the fire is unknown. It was discovered by two policemen, who saw the flames through the windows. The firemen had considerable difficulty getting their hose into the building because of the iron gates and fences that surrounded the structure.

At All Our Stores Where Quality Counts, Low Prices Prevail

Here we give a partial list of the many money-saving opportunities to be had AT ALL OUR STORES today, tomorrow and Wednesday.

GOLD SEAL BUTTER, lb. 43c. Freshly churned and of the highest quality, unequaled at its price, and unsurpassed at any price.

HY-LO BUTTER, lb. 38c. A fancy Creamery Butter that will stand comparison with most of the higher-priced BEST Butters sold in other stores.

GOLD SEAL EGGS, carton 28c. GOLD SEAL, besides being the largest, freshest, meatiest Eggs you can buy at any price, are the heaviest. Note the extra weight.

FRESH EGGS, dozen 24c. Eggs of excellent quality—every one guaranteed fresh.

12c can Choice Cal. Peaches, 10c Gold Seal Peaches, can... 15c. 8c Fresh Sliced Peaches, can... 8c. 10c can Best Pink Salmon... 8c. 14c Choice Red Salmon, can... 12c. 14c Fancy Red Salmon, can... 15c.

Fresh Soda Crackers, lb... 40c. Fresh Fig Bars, lb... 30c. Fresh Ginger Snaps, lb... 30c. Pure Jelly, ass. flavors, glass 5c. 14c Evaporated Apples, lb... 12c. Large Grape Fruit, each... 3c.

TEA. 60c GOLD SEAL 45c lb. 1/2-lb. pkg. 23c—3/4-lb. pkg. 12c. A blend of the highest grade Teas, of fine, delicate flavor and your favorite kind. Black, Mixed or Assam.

COFFEE. 35c R. & C. BEST Coffee 30c lb. A blend of the finest Coffee grown, famous for its smooth, mellow, satisfying flavor. At its regular price, 35c the pound, is unusual value.

GOLD SEAL VIENNA BREAD. Unequaled in quality and size at this nominal price.

TASTY RAISIN BREAD. Large loaves of fine quality, with a plentiful supply of big, juicy California raisins.

OUR PAN BREAD. A large, square, pan-baked loaf, close textured and wholesome as the best of home-made bread.

There are many other attractive values this week at every R. & C. Store, whether it be located at

21st and Market Streets. Downtown, Uptown, Germantown, Kensington, West Philadelphia, Manayunk, Roxborough, Logan, Oak Lane, Overbrook, Bala Cynwyd, Ardmore, Bryn Mawr, Lansdowne, E. Lansdowne, Llanerch, Darby or Media.

Robinson & Crawford

Grocery Stores for Particular People Throughout the City

Things to Know and Do. 1. Why is a chicken on a fence like a coin? (Sent in by David Meltzer). 2. Read this sentence: I understand that I take to taking I I you take my. 3. Make 100 words from dictionary. (Sent in by Doris Siner, East Johnson street.)

For Artists. A new department for children who are unable to attend the drawing class and yet desire to draw, is to be opened. The lessons will be conducted through the

about the Rainbow that the other morning when she woke up and saw the rain she said, "I wish Farmer Smith would come and put Rainbows on the birds' heads and keep them dry."

Margaret Harper, of American street, is going to form a branch club! Jean Fisher, North 7th street, please accept our thanks for that pretty snapshot. Watch for it in the P. O. Box! Many thanks to Cyril Morgan for his kind offer of assistance! Those children who are connected with the club. Alice Weed, South 84th street, has been ill. We sincerely hope she is well now and able to welcome in the April showers!

Out-of-towners' mail comes from Beulah Griffith, Chester, Pa.; Marie Blatz, Wilmington; Doris Barber, Swarthmore; Robert Lewis, Wilmington; F. J. Conover, Bridgeport, N. J.; J. Komierczak, Mount Carmel, Pa.; John Doyle and Robert Agrest, South Bethlehem; John Potchoy, McAdeco, Pa., and last but not least if lovely drawings from John Ritter, Hainesport, N. J.

Very sweet "thank you's" come from Margaret Devine, Sansom street; Edward Foreman, Jackson street; Eugene Gelle, Columbia avenue; Donald Burt, Logan; Earl Welser, North 14th street; Cecelia Esther Turnoff, North 5th street; Gertrude Altman, William Treloar, West Tenth street; Morton Winchell, North 4th street; Elmer Dittmore, Wheeler street; William Greenfield, Emily street; C. Sumner Davis, South 53rd street, and C. Milton Warris, Poplar street.

BOYS AND GIRLS

If you want to earn money after school and on Saturdays write to Farmer Smith.

MONEY PRIZES. The children who send in the answers of "Things to Know" are entitled to compete for the prizes of \$1, \$5 cents and the four \$5-cent prizes, to be awarded at the end of each week.